What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing an upstream profile and a downstream profile, both of which are for being used to process image data for recording images on a recording medium, the upstream profile being used for performing a prior process onto the image data and the downstream profile being used for performing a subsequent process on the image data already processed by the prior process, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing a downstream profile;

preparing an upstream profile using the prepared downstream profile; and

judging, after the downstream profile preparation process and before the upstream profile preparation process, whether the downstream profile has been properly prepared, and when it is judged that the downstream profile has been improperly prepared, preventing the upstream profile preparation process from being performed based on the improperly-prepared downstream profile.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prevention process includes the step of terminating preparation of the upstream and downstream profiles.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the judgement process restarts the downstream profile preparation process when it is judged that the downstream

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profile has been improperly prepared.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing a presently-existing downstream profile and a presently-existing upstream profile as an initial downstream profile and an initial upstream profile; and

judging, after the upstream profile preparation process, whether the prepared upstream and downstream profiles have been properly prepared, and when it is judged that at least one of the upstream and downstream profiles has been improperly prepared, restoring the upstream and downstream profiles to the initial downstream and upstream profiles.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising, after the restoring process, the step of terminating preparation of the upstream and downstream profiles.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising, after the restoring process, the step of restarting the downstream profile preparation process.

7. An apparatus for preparing an upstream profile and a downstream profile, both of which are for being used to process image data for recording images on a recording medium, the upstream profile being used for performing a prior process onto the image data and the downstream profile being used for performing a subsequent process on the image

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data already processed by the prior process, the apparatus comprising:

a downstream preparing unit preparing a downstream profile;

5   an upstream preparing unit preparing an upstream profile using the prepared downstream profile; and

a judging unit judging, after the downstream profile preparation process and before the upstream profile preparation process, whether the downstream profile has been properly prepared, and when it is judged that the downstream

10   profile has been improperly prepared, preventing the upstream profile preparation unit from performing the preparation based on the improperly-prepared downstream profile.

15   8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the judging unit controls the upstream and downstream profile preparing units to terminate preparation of the upstream and downstream profiles, thereby preventing the upstream profile preparation unit from performing the preparation based on

20   the improperly-prepared downstream profile.

9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the judging unit controls the downstream profile preparing unit to restart the downstream profile preparation process when it is judged that the downstream profile has been improperly

.25   prepared.

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10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a storage unit storing a presently-existing downstream profile and a presently-existing upstream profile as an initial downstream profile and an initial upstream profile; and

wherein the judging unit judges, after the upstream profile preparation process, whether the prepared upstream and downstream profiles have been properly prepared, and when it is judged that at least one of the upstream and downstream profiles has been improperly prepared, restores the upstream and downstream profiles to the initial downstream and upstream profiles.

11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the judging unit controls, after the restoring process, the upstream and downstream preparing unit to terminate the preparation of the upstream and downstream profiles.

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the judging unit controls, after the restoring process, the downstream profile preparing unit to restart the downstream profile preparation process.

13. A data storage medium storing, in a manner readable by a computer, a program of preparing an upstream profile and a downstream profile, both of which are for being used to process image data for recording images on a recording medium, the upstream profile being used for

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performing a prior process onto the image data and the downstream profile being used for performing a subsequent process on the image data already processed by the prior process, the program comprising:

a program of preparing a downstream profile;

a program of preparing an upstream profile using the prepared downstream profile; and

a program of judging, after the downstream profile preparation process and before the upstream profile preparation process, whether the downstream profile has been properly prepared, and when it is judged that the downstream profile has been improperly prepared, preventing the upstream profile preparation process from being performed based on the improperly-prepared downstream profile.